

TEACHING PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Position Paper

European Federation of Psychologists Associations Board of Ethics

A thorough knowledge of ethics, skills in ethical reasoning, and sensitivity to ethical questions, are necessary competences for all psychologists.

- ❖ Psychologists should be fully aware of professional ethical principles.
- ❖ Psychologists should be familiar with the theoretical basis of differing ethical approaches and how these relate to psychological theory and professional practice and research.
- ❖ Psychologists should be trained to understand that knowledge of ethical theory is not enough for effective ethical practice: ethical sensitivity, reasoning, motivation and capacity for implementation is also necessary.
- ❖ Psychologists should be trained to understand the importance of being conscious of any potential conflicts of interests, subjective biases, competences limits, and any possible personal problems that might impair professional practice.
- ❖ In training and teaching, psychologists must develop an understanding of the basic ethical position in professional work: that is to give priority to, and pay special respect for the needs and rights of their clients, students, and all the third parties.
- ❖ In teaching and training psychologists should be helped to be aware of the boundaries and the relationship between professional and private life.
- ❖ Psychologists should be trained to demonstrate ethical awareness in their daily practice.
- ❖ Psychologists should be trained how to resolve ethical dilemmas by weighing different ethical values, principles and through reflective practice.

- ❖ Psychologists should be sensitive to the relationship between professional ethical codes and general ethical principles; research and theories on ethics; and with any relevant legislation.
- ❖ Psychologists must be acquainted with the procedures for assessing and evaluating complaints within their association and within official bodies. They must be given guidance on how to deal with the complaint and with the ethics board or other bodies that have the right to evaluate the behavior of the psychologist.
- ❖ Psychologists must have a thorough knowledge of the EFPA Meta Code of Ethics and the Model Code of Ethics and requirements of their own National Association.

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Prepared by BoE